>

Title: Need to increase the minimum wages for the agricultural labour in the Country.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (SABARKANTHA) : Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Ministry of Labour and Employment to the issue of revision of wages of agricultural labour throughout the country. In a number of States, the agricultural wage is so low. Under the NREGP, the agriculture minimum wage is the basis and on the basis of that, even the piece rates have been fixed. As a result, the labourers do not go to work or have no incentive to work on those works. In many States, it is as low as Rs. 50. In fact, these wages are not revised for a long time.

* Not recorded.

I just want to draw the attention of the Ministry and the Central Government and request to at least tell the State Governments to revise the agricultural wage, so that the labourers working under NREGP can get more wages, and also to increase the piece rates. Many States are deliberately not doing this simply because this is a Central scheme and they do not want to give higher wages to the labourers. As a result, the entire intention of the Programme that the poor people should get more money and reviving the entire rural economy is getting affected. In fact, they are dis-serving this nation. There should be some provision whereby the Union Government can compel the State Governments to take care of this issue.